

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 04957 271718Z

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 SCA-01 JUSE-00

DEAE-00 /025 W

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P 271650Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2043

ZMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 3103

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, PFOR, SNAR, AF

SUBJ: RETURN OF DOMINIQUE ORSINI TO UNITED STATES

REF: A. STATE 201609, B. PARIS 21001

1. EMBASSY CONSIDERS INITIATIVE CONTAINED REF A PARTICULARLY TIMELY AND USEFUL. IT HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO IMPROVED FRENCH EMBASSY ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. EMBASSY HERE AND REF B HELPED FURTHER.

2. WHEN CHARGE RETURNED FROM ORSINI AIRPORT DEPARTURE EPISODE EARLY AUG 25, FRENCH CHARGE MORIZOT TELEPHONED TO INQUIRE ABOUT CASE. (THAT WAS FIRST INQUIRY RECEIVED BY US FROM FRENCH EMBASSY, EXCEPT FOR UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS OF ACTING FRENCH CONSUL GENERAL TO DISCUSS CASE WITH CHARGE AT AIRPORT IN PRESENCE OF ORSINI'S WIFE, BROTHER, AND LAWYER.) FRENCH CHARGE SAID HE HAD ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO TELEPHONE U.S. CHARGE ON AUGUST 23 AND AUGUST 24, AND DAVIS REPLIED HE HAD BEEN EITHER IN OFFICE OR AT HOME DURING VIRTUALLY ALL OF BOTH DAYS. WHEN IT BECAME OBVIOUS DURING TELCON THAT FRENCH CHARGE'S SENSIBILITIES HAD BEEN WORKED UP BY ALLEGATIONS OF "KIDNAPPING," "LACK OF DUE PROCESS," ETC., DAVIS PAID A CALL ON MORIZOT AT FRENCH EMBASSY AND DESCRIBED EVENTS WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE. WHEN MORIZOT INQUIRED WHY WE HAD

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PAGE 02 DAKAR 04957 271718Z

NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIS EMBASSY, DAVIS EXPLAINED THAT

SENEGALESE GOVT HAD ASKED THAT U.S. EMBASSY DISCUSS MATTER ONLY WITH GOS MINISTRY FONAFFAIRS. DAVIS SAID GOS HAD ASSURED USG THAT GOF WAS WELL AWARE OF CASE THROUGH INTERPOL AND ADDED THAT DEPT OF STATE AND DEA HAD ASSURED US THAT FRENCH GOVT WOULD BE MORE THAN WILLING TO HAVE ORSINI TURNED OVER TO USG FOR PROSECUTION.

3. DURING CONVERSATION, IT BECAME EVIDENT TO DAVIS THAT GOS FONMINISTRY HAD BEEN CORRECT IN ITS OBSERVATION TO US LAST WEEK THAT FRENCH EMBASSY, IF FORMED, WOULD FEEL OBLIGATED TO REQUIRE THAT GOF BE CONSULTED BEFORE EXPULSION OR EXTRADITION. DAVIS APOLOGIZED FOR REFUSING RATHER BLUNTLY TO DISCUSS MATTER UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES AT AIRPORT WITH ACTING CONSUL GENERAL. LATER IN DAY, DAVIS TELEPHONED MORIZOT AGAIN TO GIVE HIM ESSENCE OF REF A, AND FOUND FRENCH CHARGE NOTICEABLY CALMER AND FRIENDLIER.

4. DCM DAVIS MADE APPOINTMENT FOR AUGUST 27 TO RETURN COURTESY CALL OF NEW FRENCH ECONOMIC COUNSELOR. DURING THAT CALL DCM INFORMED CHARGE MORIZOT OF RESULTS OF MEETING IN PARIS BETWEEN U.S. CONSUL GENERAL AND FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL MOUTON-BRADY (REF B). MORIZOT HAD NOT RPT NOT RECEIVED CLARIFICATION OR INSTRUCTIONS FROM QUAI AND THEREFORE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED THAT WE HAD PROVIDED FURTHER CLARIFICATION. MORIZOT STILL MURMURED SOME MISGIVINGS ABOUT USG AND GOS "COLUSION" DURING WEEKEND WHEN IT "VERY DIFFICULT FOR FRENCH EMBASSY TO CARRY OUT ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN SUCH CASE." AT SAME TIME, CHARGE MORIZOT SAID, HE IS CONVINCED THAT ORSINI DESERVES TREATMENT HE HAS BEEN ACCORDED. IT IS A SOURCE OF SOME RELIEF TO US THAT THE RAISED EYEBROWS (AND HACKLES) OF OUR FRENCH COLLEAGUES HERE ARE GIVING WAY TO THEIR CUSTOMARY SMILES AND, SINCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, WE ARE AGAIN ON FIRST-NAME BASIS.

AGGREY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXTRADITION, DRUG ABUSE, DRUG CONTROL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAKAR04957
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750296-1332
From: DAKAR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750810/aaaaaipu.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 201609, 75 PARIS 21001
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <08 OCT 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RETURN OF DOMINIQUE ORSINI TO UNITED STATES
TAGS: CPRS, PFOR, SNAR, AF, (ORSINI, DMINIQUE)
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006